

James Houston to Andrew Jackson, November 17, 1819, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

JAMES HOUSTON TO JACKSON.

Maryville, November 17, 1819.

Dear sir, I received yours of the 7th of last month. And by reason of sickness in my family have not untill now been able to attend to the business it required. Yesterday was the first I could leave home. I went to Knoxville and waited on Judge [*name omitted*] shewed him your letter. He said he would as willingly do business for you and myself as any other men. But that he had declared against valueing property of any discription, and therefore could not do it. General Parsons was present at the time, who was well acquainted with the family of negroes. I desired him to say what he thought they ware worth. He said that considering the times he thought them worth \$1800 dollars as a fair price. I thought it low, but for the sake of accomedateing the family, will be satisfyed with that price, with prompt payment as part of the ballance in three or six months.

I will now discribe the family. Betsy the daughter of Peter is of middle size about 22 Years of age with three verry likely children. The oldest a Girl about 6 Years old the next a boy between 4 and 5 Years old the next a boy about 2 Years old. Bob the brother to Betsy and son of Peter is a Strong able young fellow about 18 Years old well acquainted with business. If you see proper to accept the terms You may appoint any Agent to receive the negroes or if you want them altered wright to me your terms and I will answer you

I am Sir with sincear regard your Obdt Sevt

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[*Indorsement, in Jackson's handwriting:*] answered 3rd Decbr that if funds could be raised I would take them—an answer final as soon as I could hear from Florence.

Mr James Houstons letter—on the sale of family of negroes children of Peter.